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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-05 /078 W
----------041667 150950Z /14/62
R 130709Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 7491 VICE 7492)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, JO, PLO
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT THAT KING HUSSEIN BELIEVES ARAFAT CAN BE REPLACED

REF: KUWAIT 5737

1. EMBASSY HAS COURTESY COPY OF MAGAZINE "CHIEF EXECUTIVE" WHICH CONTAINS ARTICLE MENTIONED REFTEL. CORRECT QUOTES FROM RELEVANT PORTIONS OF INTERVIEW ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: (QUESTION) THERE ARE MANY WHO SAY THAT JORDAN IS THE KEY TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND SOME WHO SAY THAT JORDAN IS THE PAWN OF PEACE. RECENTLY PRESIDENT ASSAD -- CONSIDERED A FRIEND OF YOURS -- WAS SAID TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT FOR AN
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INDEPENDENT PLO DELEGATION. DO YOU FAVOR THAT?

REPLY: I FAVOR VERY MUCH THE PALESTINIANS PARTICIPATING IN ANY PROCESS LEADING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT YASIR ARAFAT AND HIS REPRESENTA-

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TION IN THE PLO DELEGATION IF IT WERE PART OF THE
JORDANIAN DELEGATION?

REPLY: I WOULD NOT BE VERY FAVORABLE.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANOTHER PALESTINIAN LEADER WHO MIGHT
BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARAB WORLD AND TO THE REST OF
THE WORLD WHO COULD LEAD SUCH A DELEGATION?

REPLY: THERE ARE MANY WHO ARE VERY ABLE AND VERY COMPETENT
WHO REPRESENT THEM -- MANY I HAVE COME TO KNOW OVER THE
YEARS. I AM NOT GOING TO NAME THEM BECAUSE IT MIGHT
APPEAR THAT I AM TRYING TO SUGGEST ON THEIR BEHALF.

BUT THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES IF
THE ISRAELIS DECIDE TO LEAVE THE OCCUPIED AREA. THE AREA
COULD IMMEDIATELY BE PLACED UNDER INTERNATIONAL AUSPICES,
AND, AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, THE RIGHT OF SELF-
DETERMINATION COULD BE EXERCISED AND THE PALESTINIANS
THEMSELVES WOULD VOTE IN WHATEVER LEADERSHIP THEY DEEMED
BEST.

QUESTION: PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR POLICY OF SELF-
DETERMINATION.

REPLY: REGARDING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, I BELIEVE THAT
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SELF-DETERMINATION HAS BEEN DENIED THEM THROUGHOUT THE
MANY YEARS OF THEIR PLIGHT. I WOULD WISH THAT THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-
DETERMINATION REGARDING THEIR LEADERSHIP -- WHICH MUST
COME FROM AMONGST THEM...I WOULD LIKE OBVIOUSLY TO HAVE
THE PROCESS CONDUCTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL AUSPICES AND
CONDITIONS OF TOTAL FREEDOM. I HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE AND
FAITH IN THESE PEOPLE -- THAT THEIR ONLY OBJECTIVE IS TO
LIVE FREE, IN DIGNITY AND PEACE.

QUESTION: THIS MEANS THE PEOPLE OF THE WEST BANK?

REPLY: YES, AND FOR THAT MATTER ANY OTHER PALESTINIANS
ANYWHERE COULD EXPRESS THEIR WISHES AND DESIRES
REGARDING THEIR FUTURE. UNQUOTE

2. "CHIEF EXECUTIVE" IS NEW QUARTERLY MAGAZINE (COPY
WE HAVE IS ISSUE NUMBER TWO FOR OCT., NOV., DEC., 1977)
PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK. TITLE PAGE NOTES THAT MAGAZINE IS
DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO 25,000 "DISTINGUISHED LEADERS
OF THE WORLD" IN POSITIONS OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A
NATION, OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, OF A WORLD RELIGION,

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OF AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LEARNING OR OF AN INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION." PRESIDENT AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS HENRY O. DORMANN, WHO OBTAINED THIS "EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW," ENTITLED, "DOES EVEN A KING GET DISCOURAGED?"

3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE "JORDAN TIMES" CARRIED SAME STORY OCT 12, DATELINED KUWAIT, BY REUTERS; ARABIC PRESS AND JORDAN RADIO IGNORE INTERVIEW, ALTHOUGH OTHER BROADCASTS HEARD HERE ARE CARRYING STORY.

4. COMMENT: STATEMENTS IN INTERVIEW ACCURATELY REFLECT HUSSEIN'S VIEWS ON SUBJECT OF PLO AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA. HUSSEIN,
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IN ORDER MAINTAIN PUBLICLY HIS ADHERENCE TO DECISIONS OF RABAT CONFERENCE, CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT PALESTINIANS CANNOT BE PART OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO MEPC. AT THE SAME TIME, HUSSEIN'S ANTIPATHY FOR PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT IS WELL KNOWN, ALTHOUGH PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF SUCH VIEWS AS APPEARED IN CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY RARE.
PICKERING

NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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